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Comment on the proposed conservation of *Ceratites nodosus* Schlotheim, 1813 (Cephalopoda, Ammonoidea)
(Case 2732; see BZN 48: 31–35)

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Ceratites nodosus as used today is a very important index fossil in the biostratigraphy of the Triassic Muschelkalkfacies. To shift the specific name *nodosus* to the taxon known today as *Ceratites (Doloceratites) robustus robustus* (as prescribed by the Code, following the paper of Rieber & Tozer, 1986) would seriously disturb biostratigraphic practice. Therefore I support the proposal of Dr Urlichs to conserve *C. nodosus* as used today.

Comments on the proposed conservation of the specific name of *Artemia franciscana* Kellogg, 1906 (Crustacea, Branchiopoda)
(Case 2728; see BZN 47: 178–183; 48: 57)

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The authors of this case have given a very thorough history of the names involved, *A. franciscana* and four senior subjective synonyms.

Leaving aside the nomen dubium *Artemia guildingi* Thompson, 1834, if *Artemia* from Great Salt Lake (presumably *A. fertilis* Verrill, 1869 and *A. utahensis* Lockington, 1876) are indistinguishable from *A. franciscana* Kellogg, 1906 of San Francisco Bay on the basis of morphology, cross-fertility and similarity of isozyme patterns, and specimens from either region are morphologically indistinguishable from *A. gracilis* Verrill, 1869 of New England, why not let Packard's (1883) and Amat Domenech's (1980) acceptance of the priority of *A. gracilis* prevail [see BZN 47: 180, paras. 6 and 7]? The case seems to boil down to whether priority rules or convenience and ready availability of material overrules.

Verrill (1869a) stated, concerning his material from Connecticut, that 'In one tub, in which the water had a decidedly milky appearance, [specimens] were so abundant that hundreds could be obtained in a few minutes... Search was made in the pools from which the water had been taken, but no *Artemiae* were found, though doubtless

from these places the progenitors of those inhabiting the tubs must have been taken'. These observations and Verrill's (1869b) later statements suggest that occurrence of *A. gracilis* in the tubs near New Haven was not a freak, though evidently a rarity in New England. Evaporation ponds for salt, once common in the east, are not so today, but if present conceivably could harbor the species. As stated in BZN 47: 178, para. 2, Verrill described *A. gracilis* and his type material is in the Yale Peabody Museum.

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I agree that it is desirable to dispose of the names *guildingi*, based on a single specimen from an unspecified locality in the West Indies, and *gracilis*, from a region not inhabited by *Artemia* and which might have been introduced from either Europe or the western United States. That leaves available for the North American species the specific names *fertilis* Verrill, 1869, *utahensis* Lockington, 1876 and *franciscana* Kellogg, 1906. That these three names apply to a single species is clear from breeding and isozyme studies, and Bowen et al. (1978) should have followed the Code and used the oldest name, *fertilis*. Unfortunately, this action was perpetuated in the papers published subsequent to 1978 and cited by Belk & Bowen in their application.

Now the Commission is being asked to disregard priority and to legitimize a name that has been in use for the short period of about a dozen years. The Commission should not make Bowen & Belk's error permanent. By placing *guildingi* and *gracilis* on the Official Index and taking no other action, it could make *fertilis* the oldest available name and hence the valid name for the North American species of *Artemia*. This is the surest way to obtain stability in the long run.

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Belk & Bowen have presented a convincing case for giving precedence to *Artemia franciscana* Kellogg, 1906 over the previous but little used specific names *guildingi*, *gracilis*, *fertilis* and *utahensis*. In the interest of stability, because *A. franciscana* is already the commonly accepted name for the North American species of *Artemia*, I support the application.

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I know next to nothing about Branchiopoda, except that the nomenclature is in a mess.

Browne & Halanych (1989; *Crustaceana*, 57(1): 57–71) used a most peculiar nomenclature, throwing out *A. salina* (on p. 59: 'The binomen *Artemia salina* (L., 1758) long used by many investigators, is no longer taxonomically valid'), and they used names like *A. tunisiana* and *A. parthenogenetica* (as well as *A. franciscana*) without any regard to the possible existence of older synonyms. I believe that until the whole of the